(b) No Criteria is fixed by Government of India for supply of the PDS commodities in the States on a per unit basis except that each family below poverty line (BPL) is entitled to 10 Kg. of foodgrains per month at specially subsidised prices. The States/UTs fix the scale of distribution according to criteria fixed by them keeping in view the total availability of foodgrains and the target group (other than BPL families) they wish to cover.

(c) There is no report of PDS not working satisfactorily in any State. However, the efficiency of the functioning of PDS is not uniform in all the States and there is scope for improvement.

(d) No. Sir, except that the States have been asked to ensure supply of 10 Kg. of foodgrains to BPL families throughout the country.

[Translation]

ISI Agents

*186. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bengal samet teen Rajyon mein ISI ne tayar kiye panch sau agent" appearing in *Jansatta*, dated May 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government do not have any information regarding recruitment of 500 youths by the ISI in the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Government is, however, aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destablise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated actions by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

[English]

Terrorist Violence in North Eastern States

*187. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the latest rising wave of terrorist violence in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the total loss of property and public installations during the aforesaid period indicating the number of police stations attacked during the period ;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to bring the terrorist outfits into the national mainstream ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) The situation in the insurgency-affected North Eastern States is being monitored regularly and is reviewed from time to time at various levels.

(b) Specific information on these items is not maintained, though information relating to various incidents of militant violence, and action by security forces, are maintained.

(c) and (d) The Government have extended an open invitation to any group of individuals including the militants for talks without any pre-condition to discuss their legitimate grievances. The Prime Minister in a Statement to both Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, *inter-alia*, that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for three months with effect from last August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. The Prime Minister also extended his appeal to other militant groups in Nagaland.

National Handicapped Welfare Fund

* 188. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created sometime in 1983 to create jobs for the handicapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has been used for the purposes meant for it;